



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

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Dear Ms. Adachi:

As your constituent, I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the estimated 38,460 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2013, approximately **910** of whom live in Massachusetts. In 2013, pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 45,220 Americans, 74% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 94% of whom will die within five years of diagnosis.

My husband was 47 y.o. and healthy when he received his diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer 5 years ago. Like most patients, he was gone 6 1/2 months later, leaving me widowed at age 42 and leaving behind our 8 and 10 y.o. girls who watched him die. My young daughters and I do what we can to raise awareness and funds. We traveled to Washington, DC for the three years, making many sacrifices to do so, to lobby Congress for important pending legislation. We have been the top fund-raising team at PurpleStride Boston the past three years, working tirelessly to raise almost \$75,000. This is difficult as a single mother of two very active girls, but I do it without complaint because it is so important. But we can't do it alone.

To date, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and it is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent. Furthermore, the incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer are increasing, and pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. by 2020. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a proclamation supporting the observance of November 2013 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Acton, you can help us to raise awareness in our community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

We request that a total of **3** originals of the proclamation to be made available for our records. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Very truly yours,

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PROCLAMATION

Declaring the month of November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in the Town of Acton.

WHEREAS in 2013, an estimated 45,220 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 38,460 will die from the disease;

WHEREAS pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent;

WHEREAS when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is late stage, and 73 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;

WHEREAS approximately 910 deaths will occur in MA in 2013;

WHEREAS the incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer are increasing and pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. by 2020;

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress passed the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* last year, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to develop a scientific frameworks, or strategic plans, for pancreatic cancer and other deadly cancers, which will help provide the strategic direction and guidance needed to make true progress against these diseases; and

WHEREAS, it will be very difficult to leverage the opportunities that come out of the scientific framework developed as a result of the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* unless sustained and adequate funding is provided to the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute; and

WHEREAS federal funding for medical research is critical to job protection and creation in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the national organization serving the pancreatic cancer community in Acton and nationwide through a comprehensive approach that includes public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Acton support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure;

WHEREAS the good health and well-being of the residents of Acton are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen designate the month of November 2013 as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in the Town of Acton.

ACTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN